

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

IN CHARGE OF
MARY E. THORNTON



THE NURSES' ASSOCIATED ALUMNÆ OF THE UNITED STATES

THE Third Annual Convention of this association was held at Buffalo on Monday and Tuesday, September 16 and 17, Mrs. Hunter Robb, the president, in the chair. There were present fifty-one delegates from the alumnae associations affiliated with the National Society. It was decided to hold the next meeting in Chicago in May, 1902.

The officers elected for the year: President, Miss Annie Damer; first vice-president, Miss Helen Hay; second vice-president, Miss Harriet Fulmer; treasurer, Miss Tamar E. Healy; secretary, Miss Mary E. Thornton. A detailed account of the proceedings will be published in the November issue of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES

THE American Society of Superintendents of Training-Schools for Nurses met at two o'clock on Monday, September 16, in the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, on Niagara Square, in Buffalo. The president, Miss Keating, superintendent of the Erie County Hospital, was in the chair, and proceedings were begun by sending a telegram of sympathy to Mrs. McKinley on the death of the President. Thirty-five members responded to the roll-call, and after the minutes of the last meeting were read and the treasurer's report approved a short business session followed.

The society had the agreeable privilege of seating as guests on the platform Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the honorary president of the coming Congress of Nurses and president of the International Council of Nurses; Miss Isla Stewart, matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London; Miss Mollett, matron of the Royal South Hants Infirmary; Miss McGahey, matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, and delegate from the Australasian Association of Nurses; Miss Cartwright, delegate from the Registered Nurses' Society, England, and Miss Waind, delegate from St. Bartholomew's League of Nurses.

There were several committee reports of interest. Mrs. Robb, chairman of the Standing Committee on the Special Course in Hospital Economics at Teachers' College, Columbia University, gave a detailed account of the work of the class in the past year, of the prospects and plans for the future, and of the financial situation, with the need of endowment of a chair for the proper conduct of the course.

The report of the Joint Committee on Affiliation with the Associated Alumnae was read by the secretary, showing that the union of the American Society of Superintendents with the Associated Alumnae was complete, and that under the name, "American Federation of Nurses," the dues had been paid which

admitted the federation into the National Council of Women of the United States.

The society then moved that its president and first vice-president should continue to represent it in the federation, and gave authority to its representatives to join in choosing one member of the Federation Committee as president of the federation to represent it in the National Council of Women. Miss Keating, who had attended the executive meetings of the National Council of Women on September 11, 12, and 13 as delegate, then gave a very interesting account of these meetings.

The society then adjourned to attend the meeting of the International Council of Nurses.

The second session, on Tuesday afternoon, was taken up by the revision of the constitution and the election of new members and officers. The revision of the constitution (Miss Davis, chairman of the Revision Committee) was quite radical, altering membership from five classes to two, active and honorary, of which the former includes superintendents of training-schools or hospitals, assistant superintendents, and heads of nursing bodies (as the Army Nurse Corps). They are all, now, on exactly the same footing, the former inequalities having been swept away. The qualification for membership rests now solely and entirely on the professional education and general acceptability of the woman herself, and not, as formerly, on the size or character of the hospital over which she presides.

It is required that she shall have had not less than two full years of training in the wards of a general hospital, or that, in case this training had been deficient, it shall have been supplemented by post-graduate work or subsequent hospital work, which might be considered an equivalent. Under this broader and more just plan the membership of the Superintendents' Society should increase largely and its power for influencing the education of nurses be greatly augmented.

The new president is Mrs. Gretter, of the Farrand Training-School, in Detroit, and the next meeting of the society will be held in the West in September, 1902.

It was voted by the society, on motion of the secretary, that in the future all routine announcements to the society will appear in the official reports of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, and that the secretary will not be required, as heretofore, to send these individually to each member. The secretary was instructed to write fully to explain this to the members.

The meeting then adjourned.

L. L. Dock,
Secretary.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES

THE Spanish-American War Nurses held their second annual meeting at the Woman's Industrial Union in Buffalo, September 16 and 17. The meeting was a most delightful reunion, and some fifty members were added to the roll. Complete by-laws were adopted. The next meeting is to be held in Washington the second week of December, 1902.

The officers were elected by a unanimous vote to serve for another year, and are: President, Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D., Washington; vice-presidents—Miss Laura A. C. Hughes, M.D., Miss Isabel Walton, Miss Mary J. McCloud, Miss Isabel E. Cowan, M.D., Miss Annie A. Robbins, Miss Rose Meischbach, Miss

Mary E. Dreyer, Miss Anna McEvoy, Mrs. Yssabel Waters, Miss Elizabeth Porteous; treasurer and corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. C. Lounsbury, Quarrier Street, Charleston-on-Kanawha, W. Va., and recording secretary, Miss Lela Wilson.

LELA WILSON,

Recording Secretary.

[It was voted to make *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING* the official organ of the Society, and a full report of the proceedings will appear in the next number.—Ed.]

NEW YORK STATE NURSES

AN informal meeting of the New York State Nurses' Association was held in Buffalo on Tuesday evening, September 17, at the office of the president, 707 Prudential Building. The foreign delegates to the Congress were present, also representatives from the two States that have organized State societies, Virginia and Illinois.

The discussions brought out the fact that all countries and States represented were working along the same lines, and that all have about the same difficulties to overcome.

Illinois and Virginia have organized on an individual basis, having settled the problem that in New York has been considered difficult of solution, and that remains to be considered at the next meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES, BUFFALO, SEPTEMBER 16, 1901

THE International Council of Nurses held its second annual executive meeting in the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, on Niagara Square, Buffalo, N. Y., on Monday, September 16, at three o'clock. The president, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, of London, was in the chair. There were present Miss Isla Stewart, matron of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and honorary vice-president for England; Miss McGahey, matron of the Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia, and honorary vice-president for Australia; Miss Mollett, matron of the Royal South Hants and Southampton Hospital, Southampton; Miss Brennan, superintendent of the New York Training-School connected with the Bellevue Hospital, New York City; Miss Walker, superintendent of nurses in the Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia; Miss Banfield, superintendent of the Polyclinic Hospital, Philadelphia, councillors; Miss Snively, superintendent of nurses, General Hospital, Toronto, Canada, treasurer, and Miss Dock, of New York City, secretary.

Letters of regret had been received from Mrs. Norrie, of Denmark, councillor; Mrs. Grace Neill, of New Zealand, councillor; from Miss Breay, Miss Beachcroft, Miss Cureton, Miss Knight, Miss Huxley, and Miss Bradshaw, councillors from England and Ireland; from Miss Keith Payne, honorary vice-president from New Zealand; Miss Farquharson, councillor from Melbourne, Australia; from Fraulein von Schlichting, honorary vice-president from Germany, and Mej. Kruysse, honorary vice-president from Holland; also from Miss Kindbom and Mrs. Quintard, of the United States, councillors.

The American Federation of Trained Nurses, composed of the Associated

Alumnæ and the Society of Superintendents of Nursing Schools, had been invited to attend the meeting, and the room was well filled.

The president opened the proceedings by the following address.

"LADIES: In opening this, the first session of the International Council of Nurses, it is my first duty to express how deeply I appreciate the honor of having been elected as your first president, to convey to its members my profound sense of the responsibility attached to the office, and to assure them that it is my earnest determination to uphold the dignity of the distinguished professional position which has been conferred upon me.

WORK.

"The text of the few words which I would say to you is comprised in the one word—Work. We take our stand in the Preamble of this International Council of Nurses as a confederation of workers. 'We, nurses of all nations,' it runs, 'sincerely believing that the best good of our profession will be advanced by greater unity of thought, sympathy, and purpose, do hereby band ourselves in a confederation of workers to further the efficient care of the sick and to secure the honor and the interests of the nursing profession.'

"The work which lies before us in the organization of an International Council of Nurses may well impress us with its magnitude. We have written down its constitution,—a constitution pregnant with and powerful for good,—but we have to make that constitution live, and to do this we must inspire it with the vital force of a fine, purposeful spirit. Hence work must be our watch-word.

"It has been written that no man is happier than he who loves and fulfils the particular work for the world which falls to his share. To man is entrusted the nature of his actions, not the result of them, and therefore does it behoove us to be diligent in our several spheres, although the law of evolution wills it that the good which our exertions effect may rarely become visible. Between the result of single efforts and the end we have in view and the magnitude of the obstacles to be overcome there may often appear a large and painful disproportion, but we must not allow ourselves to be discouraged by seemings: warm and hearty endeavor will certainly meet its reward. Good uses are never without result. Once enacted, they become a part of the moral world; they give to it new enrichment and beauty, and the whole universe partakes of their influence. They may not return in the shape in which put forth, but likelier after the manner of seeds, which never forget to turn to flowers. Philosophers tell us that since the creation of the world not one particle of matter has been lost; it may have passed into new shapes, it may have combined with other elements, it may have floated away in vapor, but it comes back even then in the dew-drop and the rain, helping the leaf to grow and the fruit to swell; through all its wanderings and transformations Omniscience watches over and directs it. So is it with every generous and self-denying effort: it may escape our observation and be utterly forgotten, it may seem to have been all in vain, but it has painted itself on the eternal world and is never effaced. Nothing that has the ideas and principles of good in it can die or be fruitless. That which the fountain sends forth returns again to the fountain. 'Every man,' says Fichte, 'should go on working, never debating within himself, nor wavering in doubt whether it may succeed, but labor as if of necessity it must succeed.' In work, then, consists the true pride of life.

"Thus we have inspiration and effort, but we also need order. See what

order there is in nature! along with sublimest activity, what smoothness, what ease! How still the growth of the plant, yet how rapid! How peacefully the stars of midnight seem encamped, yet before morning whole armies have disappeared! So much is achieved because everything is done in order at the right time, intently yet deliberately. So in the formation of this International Council of Nurses its founders have looked well to its organization. The vote covers all. They have, therefore, chosen graduate suffrage as the foundation on which to erect their stately pillar of international professional coöperation, and have thus based the constitution on the fundamental principle that a free, and therefore a progressive, community must be self-governing. The organization of the International Council is as simple as it is sure. The graduate nurses combine to form *Alumnæ Associations*; by delegation these societies coöperate to form a National Association. The National Associated *Alumnæ*, in conjunction with the Superintendents' Society, federate to make a National Council, and the National Councils are eligible for affiliation with the International Council of Nurses. Thus, through gradual delegation we provide that every graduate nurse becomes articulate in this International Council of Nurses. We have, in short, secured to our members professional suffrage, and order will thus be evolved out of chaos.

"And yet in making our Council mechanically perfect, let us remember that the vital force is of the spirit, and not of the letter of the law. In a society which would be world-wide, which would include members of every race and creed, we must, while maintaining inviolate certain broad general principles which form our common bond of union, permit—nay, foster—individuality in detail, authorizing each country to apply these principles in a manner best suited to its own needs. In like manner every National Council will do well to encourage and develop the individuality of its members, for only so shall we utilize to the full the correlation of our forces, and make our council a progressive power for good. Diversity of opinion is the very salt of life, and we shall do well to encourage rather than deprecate its expression.

"The task to which we must first devote all our energies is the building up of National Councils of Nurses in every land. Let it be a labor of love. Ruskin says: 'It is useless to put your heads together if you can't put your hearts together. Shoulder to shoulder, right hand to right hand, among yourselves with no wrong hand to anybody else, and you'll win the world yet.'

"Into these councils should be gathered, through various associations for mutual help and professional progress, every individual graduate nurse, and the chief work in European countries for many years to come will be the education of these graduates in the immensity of human responsibility, which includes their duty towards their neighbor, other than their patient, and their duty to the State. All worthy progress of women and their work must spring from this sense of corporate existence and reverence for political rights; associations of women to be of any real value in the body politic must comprise mind as well as matter. We have experience that associated masses of women devoid of the innate vigor of conscience fall an easy prey to the unscrupulous, and retard rather than promote the intellectual advancement of their sex. Realize then the patience, the singleness of purpose, and the fine courage required by those who would sow the seed of high endeavor in the fallow fields of the nursing world. Indeed, it is a stupendous project, and will need the aid of hope, faith, and charity unbounded.

"The inspiration is ours; let the effort be forthcoming, and order must result. 'What the child admired, the youth endeavored and the man acquired.'

"National Councils of sentient beings alone can form an International Council of any worth. Awaken and cultivate the senses of each individual graduate nurse, and let the result be never so slow, it will be sure: a weighty International Council of Nurses must be.

" 'Hope is of the valley ; Effort stands
 Upon the mountain top, facing the sun ;
 Hope dreams of dreams made true and great deeds done
 Effort goes forth, with toiling feet and hands,
 To attain the far-off sky-touched table-lands
 Of great desire ; and, till the end is won,
 Looks not below, where the long strife begun
 In pleasant fields, mid torrents, rocks, and sands.
 Hope ; but when Hope bids look within her glass,
 And shows the wondrous things which may befall,
 Wait not for destiny, wait not at all ;
 This leads to failure's dark and dim morass ;
 Sound thou to all thy powers a trumpet call,
 And, staff in hand, strive up the mountain pass.' "

After the president's address the secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which was held in London in 1900, at which the constitution had been finally amended and adopted.

A collection of reports on the present status of nursing organization and nursing education in the different countries of the world had been made by the president, comprising "Great Britain and Ireland," by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick; "The United States," by Miss Dock; "Canada," by Miss Snively; "France," by Doctor Anna Hamilton; "Italy," by Miss Turton; "Denmark," by Mrs. Norrie; "Sweden," by Froken Gina Krog; "Egypt," by Miss J. Watkins; "South Africa," by Miss Breay; "South America," by Miss Jackson; "New Zealand," by Mrs. Neill; "Tasmania," by Miss Milne; "Australia," by Miss McGahey; and "Cuba," by Mrs. Quintard.

These reports, which will all be published in full, were of great interest, but their length precluded their being read with the exception of two, to show the ground covered by them. They show that the United States is at present the only country in which organization among nurses has gone to the point of being fully ready to affiliate in international relations, and that Australia will probably be the next one to complete the final steps.

The councillors of the International Council held an informal meeting in the evening, in the club-room of the Union, to consider work for the future and to plan for the further organization in countries as yet incompletely organized.

L. L. DOCK,
 Secretary.

ALUMNÆ MEETINGS

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

THE annual meeting of this Alumnæ Association was held Monday, June 3, at eight o'clock, in the parlor of the Nurses' Home. Seven business meetings have been held during the year, with a good attendance. A "birthday party" in aid of the endowed-room fund was given December 3, 1900, at which four hundred dollars was realized.

Officers elected for the coming year were as follows: President, Miss Eliza-

beth Ramsden; first vice-president, Miss Margaret S. Fay; second vice-president, Mrs. Katharine Bennett; treasurer, Mrs. Lucy H. Irwin; secretary, Miss Nellie M. Casey.

After the election of officers the meeting was thrown open to the guests, the "third-year nurses," and the members of the Training-School Committee. Papers were read by Miss Sara Rudden, her subject being "The Ethical Side of Nursing," and by Miss Nellie M. Casey, whose subject was "The Relation of the Graduate Nurse to the Training-School." After the business meeting refreshments were served and vocal and instrumental music was rendered by the nurses until eleven p.m., when the meeting adjourned to September.

NELLIE M. CASEY,
Secretary.

THE BROOKLYN HOSPITAL ALUMNÆ.

This association has entered its seventh year with a membership of ninety-four, an increase of thirteen more than last year. Its finances are in a prosperous condition. The sick-fund has on hand fifteen hundred and twenty-four dollars and forty-six cents. Four of its members have benefited by the sick-fund this year. Nine meetings were held during the year at the Training-School and were well attended. Several interesting lectures were given at these meetings, also an entertaining account of the convention at Washington. The society was well represented at the convention of the National Association in New York in May. Several of its members rendered good service to the sufferers by the Galveston disaster. A majority of the members are doing private duty in New York and Brooklyn, but a good many hold responsible positions in hospitals.

COOPER HOSPITAL ALUMNÆ, CAMDEN, N. J.

A special meeting of the Alumnæ Association of the Cooper Hospital, Camden, N. J., was held Thursday, September 19. Important matters pertaining to the association were discussed, and a committee appointed to draw up resolutions relating to the death of the President, which are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

ELLIOT CITY (N. H.) ALUMNÆ.

The graduates of Elliot City, Keene, N. H., met on June 5 and organized an alumnæ association with four honorary and twenty-five charter members.

The following officers were elected: President, M. E. Taft, M.D.; first vice-president, Mrs. Ben. O. Aldrich; second vice-president, Mrs. Selina O. Rittenhouse; third vice-president, Miss F. S. Farrell; secretary, Miss Marie A. Bourgeois; treasurer, Miss M. M. Dumvill.

